

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-45 (cancelled).

Please amend the following claims as shown:

46. (Currently amended) An isolated complex comprising a peptide or peptide derivative derived from glutamic acid decarboxylase which is bound to an allele or a peptide-binding derivative of MHC class II molecules DR3 or DR4 selected from the group consisting of DR B1 0301, DR B1 0401, DR B1 0402 and DR B1 0404, wherein the peptide or peptide derivative has a length of at most 25 amino acids and comprises

(a) a peptide of at least 6 10 amino acids of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 3 and 19-39, or

(b) a peptide or peptide derivative having a length of 6 10 to 25 amino acids that is at least 50% homologous to the peptide of (a) and which exhibits a specificity or/and affinity which is essentially equivalent to that of the peptide (a) and includes anchor positions for binding to said alleles or peptide-binding derivatives of MHC class II molecules DR3 or DR4; wherein in said peptide derivatives the peptide backbone and or the reactive amino acid side groups are derivatized.

47. (Previously added) The complex of claim 46, wherein the MHC class II molecules have the subtype DR B1 0301 or DR B1 0401.

48. (Previously added) The complex of claim 46, wherein the MHC class II molecules are recombinant MHC class II molecules.

49. (Currently amended) The complex of claim 46, wherein the peptide or peptide derivative is bound to a soluble peptide-binding derivative of said MHC class II DR3 or DR4 molecules ~~DR3 or DR4~~.

D2

Application No.: 09/441,061

50. (Previously added) The complex of claim 46, wherein the complex carries a marker group.

51. (Currently amended) The complex of claim 46, wherein the peptide (a) includes anchor positions for binding to alleles or peptide-binding derivatives of said MHC class DR3 or DR4 II molecules ~~DR3 or DR4~~.

52. (Currently amended) The complex of claim 46, wherein the peptide or peptide derivative comprises

(a) a peptide of at least 6 10 amino acids of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and SEQ ID NO: 3, or

D₂
(b) a peptide or peptide derivative having a length of 6 10 to 25 amino acids which exhibits a specificity or/and affinity which is essentially equivalent to that of the peptide (a) and includes anchor positions for binding to said alleles of MHC class II molecules DR3 or DR4.

53. Canceled.

54. Canceled.

55. (Previously added) The complex of claim 46, wherein the peptide or peptide derivative carries a marker group.

56. (Previously added) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a complex as claimed in claim 46, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

57. (Previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 56, further comprising an accessory stimulating component.

58. (Previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 57, wherein the accessory stimulating component is a cytokine, surface antigen B7, or both.

Application No.: 09/441,061

59. (Canceled).

60. (Canceled).

61. (Canceled).

62. (Canceled).

63. (Canceled).

64. (Canceled).

65. (Canceled).

66. (Canceled).

67. (Canceled).

68. (Canceled).

69. (Canceled).

70. (Canceled).

71. (Canceled).

72. (Canceled).

73. (Canceled).

74. (Canceled).

75. (Canceled).

76. (Canceled).

77. (Canceled).

78. (Canceled).

79. (Canceled).

D₂